

TWO HOUSES ORIGINALLY SURVEYED ON ONE FORM

Site: M:26/15/5 M:26/15/6

Harriss House & Hicks Barber Shop

Built: c. 1940

311 Lincoln Avenue

Private

These buildings reflect the mid-20th century era of development in Lincoln Park, a late 19th-century black subdivision. although purchased from the original developer in 1893, this lot remained vacant until it was transferred to Theodore and Ida Harris in 1940. The Harrisses built their 2-story, 4-room frame vernacular cottage soon afterward.

Just to the east, Clarence Hicks operated a community barber shop for 25 years. The tiny, unadorned one-story structure provided not only tonsorial services but also a neighborhood gathering place. While once a common building form in black neighborhoods, a remnant of the days of segregation, the one-person personal service shop has virtually disappeared from Rockville.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/15/5

Magi No. 1451425804

DOE ☐ yes ☐ noNR eligible ☐ yes ☒ no
contrib. element in H.D. ☐

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic M:26/15/5 M:26/15/6
Harriss House & Hicks Barber Shop

and/or common 311 Lincoln Avenue

2. Location

street & number 311 Lincoln Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 6)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied house	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied shop	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Theodore and Ida Harriss

street & number 311 Lincoln Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 780

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 488

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/15/5

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair house

☒ shop
deteriorated
ruins
unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house and shop face north on Lincoln Avenue, slightly set back on a narrow, deep lot. A small, detached barber shop is located approximately two feet west of the house. Mature trees shade the rear yard, and azaleas break the foundation line of the house in the front. Privet hedge lines the front walkway to the house and separates the lawn from the street.

This c. 1940 frame, one-bay by two-bay, front gabled gambrel-roofed 2-story rectangular main block has shed-roofed additions on the south and east sides, forming an "L" shaped structure. It is clad with wood-grained asbestos shingles, and the roofing material is composition shingles. The foundation is concrete cinder block parged with concrete. An interior brick chimney is on the west slope of the roof and an exterior brick chimney is at the south end of the east addition.

House

The two-bay north (front) facade has a 6/6 double sash window centered on the second story and one window in the east bay, first story. A six-light wood panel exterior door occupies the the west bay, accessed by two concrete steps and sheltered by an aluminum awning.

The two-bay west facade has gambrel-roofed, 6/6 dormers projecting though the eaves in the north and south bays, second story. There is a 6/6 window in the north and south bays, first story.

The one-bay south (rear) facade has one 6/6 window centered in the gable, second story. The first story is occupied by a shed-roofed addition. The addition has a pair of 4-light windows on the west side, a 6/6 window in the west bay of the south side and an exterior door in the east bay.

The two-bay east facade has two dormers in the second story as the west side, and one window in the north bay, first story. An addition occupies the south portion of the first story. The north facade of the addition has a central three part window formed of a 20-light window with double sash horizontal 2/2 side lights. High on the east facade, pairs of small rectangular one-light sashes are in the north and south bays. The south facade of the addition is unrelieved.

continued on attachment 7, page 1 (7.1)

Description (continued) : Harris House and Hicks Barber Shop

Barber Shop:

The frame, two-bay by one-bay one-story barber shop consists of a small core building and a large shed-roofed addition on the rear, triple the size of the core shop. The shop and addition are clad with asbestos shingles on all sides except the west side of the shop, which has narrow vertical siding. It rests on a concrete foundation and has two metal vent pipes on the south end of the addition.

The two-bay north (front) side of the barber shop has one six-light window in the east bay and a one-light wood panel exterior door in the west bay, accessed by two wooden steps. The fact that the door molding is directly below the the eave illustrates the extremely small scale of the building. A small electric red and white barber pole is mounted on the east corner of the facade.

The one-bay west facade has an opening for a six-light window, but now has a four-light window with wood panel fill.

The south (rear) of the shop is occupied by the previously mentioned addition. The addition is unrelieved the east and west facades and has one 6-light sash on the south facade.

The east facade of the shop main block is unrelieved.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history
Specific dates c. 1940	Builder/Architect			black history

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The two buildings on this lot in Lincoln Park date from ca. 1940. One is an interesting example of vernacular residential construction; the other reflects the small shop once prevalent in black neighborhoods during segregation. The barber shop remained a community fixture until 1985, but is now vacant.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period: County Seat to Satellite City; 1931-present
4. Resource type: single family residence, commercial building

History and Support

In 1940, when the deed transferring Lot 16, Block 1 of Lincoln Park from the heirs of Adam Powell to Theodore and Ida Harriss was recorded, the original 1893 deed from William Welsh to Adam Powell was also recorded. It showed that Mr. Powell had paid \$80 for the 50 X 200 foot lot in the newly-platted subdivision of Lincoln Park. 1/

The Powell lot remained vacant for almost 50 years, although Flora Powell and children built and owned several residences and rental houses in Haiti, Lincoln Park and on North Washington St. 2/ Three Powell-owned houses on North Washington at Beall Avenue were demolished when that area, once occupied by blacks, was developed as a shopping center. 3/

continued on attachment 8 page 1 (8.1)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :
Harris House and Hicks Barber Shop

The Harriss residence at (now) 311 Lincoln and the tiny frame building adjoining are examples of the eclectic, vernacular building forms seen in Lincoln Park. The Harriss home is some 40-50 years younger than the original homes and reflects a more sophisticated style than the earlier four-room cottages.

The house is two-story, of frame construction covered with asbestos siding. It has a shallow-pitched gambrel roof line. Decoration is provided by the placement of the second floor windows on each side, which rise through the eave line to form gambrel-roofed dormers. A one-story ell was later added on the east side.

The small, frame, one story, one bay and lean-to shop adjacent to the Harriss house was, until recently, the community's barber shop. For 25 years Clarence Hicks provided not only tonsorial services, but also cold drinks and a neighborhood gathering place. This kind of simple, unadorned one-person shop was once a common building form in Rockville's black neighborhoods, a remnant of the days of segregation which made it necessary for black communities to provide their own personal services such as barber shops, beauty parlors, bakery/food stores and undertaking establishments. Most of these structures, contemporary with the Lincoln Avenue barber shop and located in the Middle Lane-North Washington Street area, have been demolished or converted to other uses.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County land Records 780/488 (1940) and 780/489 (dated 1893, recorded 1940). Deed to Harriss' from Flora Powell, widow, and Gertrude Prather, widow, heirs-at-law of Adam Powell.
2. Tax records, 1891-1928. The Ross/Powell residence in Haiti is discussed on Site Survey Form M:26/16/1.
3. Oral history "Mrs. Mabel Hill Talks About Lincoln Park", April 1976. Tax assessments, records, plats, and histories of Rockville show the area as black owned on both sides of N. Washington Street from Middle Lane north, until the late 1950s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/15/5

Montgomery County Land, Tax and Plat records. Histories and plats,
City of Rockville. Interviews with Lincoln Park residents.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~13,200~~ square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 16, Block 1 of Lincoln Park.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	J. Christensen Arch.	description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	March, 1987
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1982

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M:26/15/6

6

Harriss House and
Hicks Barber Shop

311 Lincoln Avenue

City of Rockville
scale: 1"= 600'





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1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/15/5 Harriss House
M:26/15/6 Hicks Barber Shop
311 Lincoln Avenue, Rockville, Md. 20850
Dean Evangelista
6/1987

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